

Message Text

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17

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ARA-06 SAM-01 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /090 W

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R 130716Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 75180

INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 2505

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IV, RH, CU

SUBJECT: RHODESIA AND THE CUBANS: AN IVORY COAST VIEW

REF: STATE 055627

1. EMBASSY POLOFF CALLED ON MFA CHIEF OF CABINET JULIEN KACOU
MARCH 12 TO CAL, ATTENTION TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH OF MARCH 4
ON RHODESIA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION AS TO HOW HE SAW EVENTS
DEVELOPING WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE CUBAN MILITARY INTERVENTION,
KACOU REPLIED "THAT DEPEND ON USA." KACOU SAID THAT LACK
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OF OVERT AND FORCEFUL RESPONSE ON PART OF US TO CUBAN/SOVIET

MILITARY INTERVENTION IN ANGOLAN SITUATION WAS DEEPLY DISAPPOINTING AND DISTURBING TO COUNTRIES SUCH AS IVORY COAST "WHICH HAD CHOSEN THE WEST." IT LED THEM TO BELIEVE THAT SHOULD THEY BE IN A SITUATION THREATENED BY EXTERNAL AGGRESSION THEY COULD NOT COUNT ON AID OF THE WEST AS THEY HAD THOUGHT.

2. WITH RESPECT TO WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN RHODESIA, AND REFERRING TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH, KACOU SAID US SHOULD NOT BE CONTENT WITH NEGATIVE ACTION OF WARNING CUBANS AGAINST INTERVENTION BUT SHOULD TAKE POSITIVE ACTION SEEN FAVORABLE TO BLACK AFRICANS BY PUTTING PRESSURE ON SMITH REGIME THROUGH SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. AFRICANS BELIEVED US WAS CLOSELY LINKED TO SOUTH AFRICA AND HAD INFLUENCE IN SITUATION WHICH IT WAS NOT USING. HE CHARACTERIZED US POLICY AS "TOO TIMID" IN THIS REGARD AND SAID US HAD MADE SAME MISTAKE IN FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES, FAILING TO AID LIBERATION GROUPS (WHILE RUSSIA AND CUBA DID SO OVER THE YEARS) WHILE AT SAME TIME GIVING MILITARY AID TO PORTUGAL. EFFECT OF ALL THIS WAS THAT US SEEN ALLIED WITH WHITE MINORITY REGIMES. THIS SITUATION MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR "MODERATE" AFRICAN STATES TO COUNTER ARGUMENT OF "PROGRESSIVES" WHEN THEY ASKED HOW COULD THEY CONDEMN RUSSIANS AND CUBANS WHO HAD FOUGHT WITH THEM FOR YEARS FOR THEIR LIBERATION.

3. KACOU CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT MOST AFRICANS ARE BY NATURE OPPOSED TO COMMUNISM AND HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT ONCE LIBERATION HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN SOUTHERN AFRICA THE NEW REGIMES WOULD INVITE THE COMMUNIST MILITARY FORCES TO LEAVE, AND AFRICANS WOULD BE LEFT TO RUN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. HE ADDED PESSIMISTICALLY, HOWEVER, THAT THE SCALE OF THE INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA WAS OF AN ENTIRELY NEW ORDER, THAT IVORIANS REMAINED SUSPICIOUS OF COMMUNIST INTENTIONS, AND THAT THEY NOW FEARED THE US EITHER DIDN'T CARE OR WAS INCAPABLE OF REACTING WHATEVER MIGHT HAPPEN.

4. COMMENT: KACOU'S SOMBRE ASSESSMENT REFLECTS THE MOOD OF THE GOIC LEADERSHIP IN THE WAKE OF ANGOLA, WHICH THE EMBASSY HAS REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, AND WHICH IS LEADING THE GOIC TO UNDERTAKE A SEARCHING LOOK AT WHAT IT PERCEIVES
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AS THE NEW REALITIES IN AFRICA. SMITH

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